

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0225

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM NATO MBFR
SUBJ: MBFR: QUESTIONS ON EASTERN DATA FOR APRIL 18 INFORMAL

REF: A) STATE 96686 DTG 142251Z APR 78
B) MBFR VIENNA 220 DTG 151044Z APR 78

PER INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL (A), WE ARE TRANSMITTING BELOW
THE AHG APPROVED CONTINGENCY QUESTIONS ON EASTERN DATA FOR USE
IN THE APRIL 18 INFORMAL SESSION WHICH WERE DESCRIBED IN
REFTEL (B). BEGIN TEXT

POSSIBLE SITUATION NO. 1: EASTERN REPS SAY THAT ALL SURFACE-
TO-SURFACE MISSILE BRIGADES SUBORDINATE DIRECTLY TO THE
HEADQUARTERS OF THE GROUP OF SOVIET-FORCES IN THE GDR
ARE INCLUDED UNDER MAJOR FORMATIONS, AND THAT ALL SURFACE-
TO-AIR MISSILE UNITS WHICH ARE SUBORDINATE DIRECTLY TO THE
HEADQUARTERS OF THE GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES IN THE GDR HAVE
BEEN INCLUDED IN THE SECOND CATEGORY.

SUGGESTED WESTERN RESPONSE

1. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE-SOVIET GROUND
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FORCE PERSONNEL IN THE GDR WHOM THE EAST HAS COUNTED IN
MAJOR FORMATIONS ARE (1) THE PERSONNEL OF ALL UNITS, SUBUNITS,
AND FORMATIONS SUBORDINATE TO SOVIET ARMIES THERE, (2) THE
PERSONNEL OF THE SOVIET ARTILLERY DIVISION, AND (3) THE
PERSONNEL OF ALL SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE BRIGADES,
REGARDLESS OF SUBORDINATION. IS THIS CORRECT?

2. IT IS ALSO OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL SOVIET GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL IN THE GDR WHO ARE NOT-IN ONE OF THE THREE GROUPS I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED ARE COUNTED IN THE SECOND CATEGORY. IS THIS CORRECT?

POSSIBLE SITUATION NO. 2: EASTERN REPS DO NOT CLARIFY WHAT APPEAR TO BE CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS, MADE DURING APRIL 12 AND APRIL 14 INFORMAL, REGARDING WHICH SOVIET PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE CATEGORY OF MAJOR FORMATIONS. SPECIFICALLY, ON APRIL 14 AMB STRULAK SEEMED TO SAY THAT THE SOVIET ARTILLERY DIVISION WAS THE ONLY SOVIET UNIT DIRECTLY SUBORDINATE TO HEADQUARTERS OF THE GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES IN THE GDR, BUT WHOSE PERSONNEL THE EAST HAD COUNTED IN MAJOR FORMATIONS. PREVIOUSLY, HOWEVER, ON APRIL 12, AMB TARASOV SAID THE BRIGADES SUBORDINATE DIRECTLY TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THAT GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES ALSO HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN MAJOR FORMATIONS.

SUGGESTED WESTERN QUESTION:

1. ON APRIL 12, WE ASKED EASTERN REPS IF, IN THE ALLOCATION OF SOVIET GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL BETWEEN THE TWO CATEGORIES, THE SOVIET ARTILLERY DIVISION IN THE GDR WAS THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SUBORDINATION. THAT IS, AS THAT ARTILLERY DIVISION THE ONLY UNIT, SUBUNIT, OR FORMATION WHICH WAS NOT SUBORDINATE TO A SOVIET ARMY IN THE GDR OR TO THE HEADQUARTERS
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OF THE GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES IN EITHER POLAND OR CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT WHOSE PERSONNEL THE EAST HAD COUNTED IN MAJOR FORMATIONS.

2. ON APRIL 14, IN REPLYING TO THIS SPECIFIC QUESTION, AMB STRULAK SAID QUOTE YES, THIS WAS THE ONLY DIVISION WHICH WAS NOT SUBORDINATE TO ARMIES BUT DIRECTLY TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES IN THE GDR AND, AS EASTERN REPS HAD ALREADY STATED, THE PERSONNEL OF THIS DIVISION HAD BEEN INCLUDED BY THEM IN THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF MAJOR FORMATIONS UNQUOTE.

3. IT MAY BE THAT AMBASSADOR STRULAK DID NOT UNDERSTAND OUR QUESTION. WE DID NOT ASK WHETHER THE SOVIET ARTILLERY DIVISION WAS THE ONLY SOVIET DIVISION IN THE GDR NOT SUBORDINATE TO AN ARMY. MOREOVER, WE HAD ALREADY UNDERSTOOD THAT EASTERN REPS HAD COUNTED THE PERSONNEL OF THIS DIVISION IN THE FIGURE FOR MAJOR FORMATIONS.

4. WHAT WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO LEARN WAS, WERE THERE, IN ADDITION TO THIS ARTILLERY DIVISION, ANY OTHER UNITS, SUBUNITS, OR FORMATIONS WHICH WERE SUBORDINATE NEITHER TO SOVIET ARMIES NOR TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GROUPS OF

SOVIET FORCES IN POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT WHOSE PERSONNEL THE EAST HAD COUNTED IN THE SOVIET FIGURE FOR MAJOR FORMATIONS.

5. WE ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT AMB TARASOV ALREADY ANSWERED THIS QUESTION ON APRIL 12, AT THE SAME TIME HE REPLIED TO OUR QUESTION ON THE EASTERN MEANING OF THE TERM QUOTE EQUIVALENT FORMATIONS UNQUOTE.

6. AMB TARASOV SAID QUOTE BY EQUIVALENT FORMATIONS, EASTERN REPS MEANT BRIGADES WHICH, ALTHOUGH BEING SUBORDINATE DIRECTLY TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES IN THE GDR HAD, HOWEVER, BEEN INCLUDED BY THE EAST IN THE CATEGORY OF MAJOR FORMATIONS UNQUOTE.

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7. AMB TARASOV ALSO SAID QUOTE ALL BRIGADES SUBORDINATE TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF SOVIET FORCES IN THE GDR HAD BEEN INCLUDED UNDER MAJOR FORMATIONS UNQUOTE.

8. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING, THEREFORE, THAT THE SOVIET GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL IN THE GDR WHOM THE EAST HAS COUNTED IN ITS FIGURES FOR MAJOR FORMATIONS INCLUDES NOT ONLY THE PERSONNEL OF ALL UNITS, SUBUNITS, AND FORMATIONS SUBORDINATE TO ARMIES, BUT ALSO THE PERSONNEL OF THE SOVIET ARTILLERY DIVISION AND THE PERSONNEL OF ALL BRIGADES SUBORDINATE DIRECTLY TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOVIET GROUP OF FORCES IN THE GDR. IS THIS CORRECT?

9. ARE THERE ANY OTHER UNITS, SUBUNITS, OR FORMATIONS OF THE SOVIET FORCES IN THE GDR WHICH ARE NOT SUBORDINATE TO ARMIES BUT WHOSE PERSONNEL THE EAST HAS INCLUDED IN MAJOR FORMATIONS?
END TEXTRESOR

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NNN

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